

TID/TSB-120/64
24 August 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Terrestrial Orbital Photograph
Study (TOPS) Committee

1. The following personnel were in attendance on 19
August 1964:

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2. The purpose of the meeting, although not so stated,
appeared to have been. How best to improve satel-
lite photography by recording ground truth data during the
acquisition of [REDACTED] photography. No!- task is to determine
capability of system from micro-d. traces of ground-truth objects under varying
conditions, i.e., contrast
son & etc.

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3. The chairman proposed that three dimensional objects
(buildings) of known dimensions be included with the acqui-
sition of CORN targets. In addition to the usual temperature,
humidity, barometric pressure, sky photographs, wind direction
and velocity recorded at the site of the photography be pro-
posed that light reflectance readings be made of all the
various surfaces in the area.

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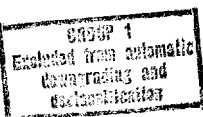
4. [REDACTED] advised the group that meteorological
readings taken at or near ground elevation are not indicative
of atmospheric conditions that degrade satellite photography.
Atmospheric degradations are caused by perturbations that
occur at predictable altitudes usually at 10,000, 80,000 and
between 200,000 - 400,000 feet. These perturbations are re-
ferred to as "atmospheric bail" and have been substantiated
by [REDACTED] findings during their research in satellite
optical work.

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5. The group did not enthusiastically support the
Terrestrial Orbital Photographic Study, although they did
agree that engineering passes [REDACTED]

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should be continued; evaluation of bar targets and sites should be compared with previous coverage; portable targets should be limited to KH-4 missions; circular (bull's eye) targets discontinued because of their incompatibility with existing edge tracing procedures; greater dissemination of ground truth information within the community and an expansion of the CORN program. A priority list of military and industrial targets of [REDACTED] installations was presented to [REDACTED] with a request that they be acquired on future satellite missions.

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6. Odd bits of related information:

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a. [REDACTED] will be the first to incorporate a pressure system.

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b. [REDACTED] A new 300' line target will be included in the CORN program.

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c. [REDACTED] Interpreters agree that one on the most important considerations should be sun azimuth.

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d. [REDACTED] Meteorologists will soon be able to predict atmospheric attenuation thus determining the limiting resolution due to atmospheric bail.

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e. [REDACTED] Background contrast is the major deterrent to more accurate mensuration.

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f. [REDACTED] Four percent of the payload in a KH-4 mission can be used for engineering passes.

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g. [REDACTED]

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7. After three hours of discussion that included the merits of transfer functions, edge scanning procedures, human factors in detecting, identifying and measuring imagery, costs in obtaining ground truth data, factors that limit image resolution and the value of maintaining historical records of system performance the meeting was adjourned.

SIGNED

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